

# Mercy to Saul

1 Sam 24:1-22

## 1 Sam 24:1-2

Saul with 3,000 of best warriors.

David and men hiding in cave.

**Powell:** *The young captain did not panic. Nearby was a large cave which had been made by centuries of erosion. It had been used by shepherds supplying shade for their sheep...*

## 1 Sam 24:3

**Sheepcotes:** Sheep fold—kept sheep

**Powell:** *As he watched the king approaching the cave, death appeared to be imminent. If any man had coughed or sneezed, the enemy would have been alerted, and even the rolling of a small pebble would have been investigated. No man moved while they watched apprehensively as Saul's soldiers arranged a makeshift bed for their leader and then withdrew so as not to intrude upon his privacy.*

## 1 Sam 24:4 ...men of David said

*This is the day of opportunity the Lord has talked about.*

They saw this as will of God.

Psa 34:16

**Powell:** *... one whispered to David: "Master, here is your opportunity. The Lord has delivered the enemy into your hands. Kill him, and our problems will be over."*

***Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.***

One of David's greatest victories.

Maintained self-control.

Opportune moment to kill his enemy.

If Saul had been in David's shoes--- not hesitated for one moment to plunge a knife into David's heart.

Majority of people in Israel would've rejoiced to see David kill Saul.

The majority is not always right.

Mat 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

**Powell...** *it was better to remember the pity in his eyes than the blood on his sword.*

## 1 Sam 24:5-6

His conscience bothers him.

He just did something bad to the king, God's anointed.

Is it ever right to do wrong in order to do right?

David respected the position of Saul, even though he had lost respect ...

You don't mess with God's anointed. Psalm 105:15

## 1 Sam 24:7-8

Deep gorge called “the Valley of Rocks”

David standing on one side looking at Saul on other side.

**1 Sam 24:9**

*Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to do you harm?*

**1 Sam 24:10-11**

*This little piece of material is proof that I don't want to do you harm ... even though you have done so to me.*

**1 Sam 24:12**

*God will decide who the guilty one is.*

*Be assured that I will not do anything to harm you.*

**1 Sam 24:13**

*Evil deeds come from evil people.*

**1 Sam 24:14**

*Why are you wasting time with me.*

*You are spending your time chasing a man who is as worthless as a dead dog or a flea.*

**1 Sam 24:15**

*Let the Lord judge between you and me.*

*God is my rescuer ...*

**1 Sam 24:16**

*My son, David?*

*Began to cry*

**1 Sam 24:17**

*You have shown me mercy.*

*You returned good for evil.*

**1 Sam 24:18**

*You could've killed me.*

**1 Sam 24:19**

*This is unheard of.*

*May the Lord pay you back for the kindness you have shown me this day.*

**1 Sam 24:20**

*Obvious to me-- you will be next king of Israel*

*Israel will flourish and be blessed because of your leadership.*

**1 Sam 24:21**

*Swear to me by the Lord-- not kill my family and destroy line of descendents.*

**1 Sam 24:22**

*David made the promise, Saul left, and David and his men went back to their stronghold.*

## Observations

- **David humble in approach (v.14)**

Transparent and honest

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

James 4:6 ...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

- **David was truthful/honest (vv. 10-12).**

Psalms 15:1-3 Psalms 119:30 Psalms 145:18

- **David showed Saul mercy.**

Truth and mercy—tremendous balance

Psalms 25:10 Psalms 61:7 Psalms 85:10 Psalms 89:14 Proverbs 3:3

Proverbs 16:6 Proverbs 20:28 Proverbs 12:19

## Saul's response:

- **Humiliation**—he wept. V. 16

- **Acknowledgement**—David be next king of Israel. vv20-22